

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 03243 172131Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OIC-02
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P R 171312Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBROUG
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
CSAF WASHDC
OSAF WASHDC
AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD
ESD HANSCOMB AFB MA
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3243

SECSTATE FOR EUR/RPM; SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA AND OUSDR&E/IP;
OSAF FOR SAFALP; CSAF FOR ATF AND RDPN; AFSC FOR SD AND PM;
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ESD FOR YW AND YWT.

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MILI, AWACS, DA
SUBJ: DANISH NATIONAL PROCESSES ON AWACS

REF: A. USNATO 4700 DTG 111218Z MAY 78;
B. COPENHAGEN 2330 DTG 071700Z APR 78

SUMMARY: DURING VISIT TO DANISH AIR DEFENSE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, CHIEF ODC WAS INFORMED THAT NATIONAL DECISION PROCESS FOR AWACS HAD PROGRESSED TO PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE COMMITTEE (SEE REFTEL B). DEFENSE OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT MOD SOGAARD WOULD PROBABLY NOT REPEAT NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE FIRM COMMITMENT TO AWACS IN 18-19 MAY MINISTERIAL. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS NOW REACHED THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE WOULD INDICATE THAT CABINET-LEVEL APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. IF TRUE, APPROVAL OF THE FOLKETING COMMITTEE IS MORE OR LESS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. END SUMMARY.

1. ODC STAFF WAS INVITED WEDNESDAY TO DANISH AIR DEFENSE HQS FOR SPECIAL BRIEFING ON DANISH AIR DEFENSE NETWORK. BRIEFING WAS ATTENDED BY RADM I.B. RODHOLM, DANISH DEFENSE PROCUREMENT CHIEF, AND KEY AIR DEFENSE STAFF COMMANDERS. BRIEFING COVERED BROAD AIR DEFENSE CONCEPT AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES TO INCLUDE KEY ROLES PLAYED BY GROUND OBSERVER CORPS AND SPECIAL EMPHASIS PLACED ON ANALYSIS BY BATTLE STAFF INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. AT CONCLUSION OF BRIEFING, OPEN DISCUSSION CENTERED ON NEED FOR GAP FILLER RADAR, LOW-LEVEL GROUND BASED RADAR VULNERABILITY. CONFIDENTIAL

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ITIES, AND NEED FOR CONTINUOUS INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR ANALYSIS OF AIR THREAT BY BATTLE STAFF. ODC CHIEF SPECULATED ON PROBABLY LOSS OF PRESENT DANISH GROUND BASED RADARS IN EARLY STAGES OF CONFLICT AND COMMENTED THAT AWACS APPEARED TO FULFILL BOTH LOW-LEVEL RADAR NEEDS AND GREATLY COMPLEMENTED INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES OF BATTLE STAFF INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

2. ADMIRAL RODHOLM REITERATED POSITION THAT DANES SAW NEED FOR NATIONALLY CONTROLLED LOW-LEVEL RADAR THAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON 24 HOUR BASIS AND THAT DECISION FOR OR AGAINST AWACS WOULD AGAIN DEPEND ON NATO INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING OF THAT RADAR. ODC CHIEF ONCE AGAIN STATED THAT U.S. SUPPORTED DANISH POSITION BUT THAT DECISION WAS A NATO DECISION THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT DIRECTLY CONTROL.

3. FOLLOWING BRIEFING, ODC CHIEF WAS CONTACTED BY DEFENSE STAFF AWACS PROJECT OFFICER WHO INFORMED US THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO DANISH AMBASSADOR SVART INCLUDED STATEMENT THAT DANISH COMMITMENT TO AWACS BE AGAIN TIED TO INFRASTRUCTURE DECISION. THESE INSTRUCTIONS WERE CONFIRMED BY

REFTEL A. CONTACT ALSO STATED THAT AMBASSADOR SVART'S INSTRUCTIONS ALSO INCLUDED BROAD GUIDANCE THAT IF DECISION FOR AWACS PROCUREMENT APPEARED INEVITABLE, DENMARK SHOULD NOT OBSTRUCT THE PROCESS. COMMENT: WE INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN THAT MOD SOGAARD HAD RECEIVED FAVORABLE AWACS CONSIDERATION FROM CABINET PRIOR TO MAY 8 DPC. END COMMENT.

4. IN SUMMARY, COMMENTS BY AMBASSADOR SVART AT MAY 8 PDC, PLUS INFORMATION GAINED FROM LOCAL MILITARY SOURCES, LEAD US TO CONCLUDE THAT DANISH AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT AWACS DECISION HAS BEEN OBTAINED IN CAMERA, HOWEVER, DANES WILL NOT BE THE FIRST TO STAND UP IN THE MINISTERIAL FORUM AND SUPPORT AWACS NOR THE FIRST TO OBSTRUCT THE DECISION. WE BELIEVE IT IS CLEAR TO THE DANES THAT AWACS
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FULFILLS THEIR NEEDS FOR ADEQUATE LOW-LEVEL RADAR COVERAGE PLUS CONCOMITANT INTELLIGENCE BENEFITS ESSENTIAL TO PROPER ANALYSIS OF AIR THREAT BY BATTLE STAFF. IT SHOULD BE APPARENT TO THE DANES THAT THE PRICE THEY ARE BEING ASKED TO PAY FOR THESE CAPABILITIES MAKES A FAVORABLE DECISION ON THEIR PART IMPERATIVE. WE BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL DO SO WHEN THE TIME REQUIRES IT.
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